

37. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the anionic surfactant comprises an alkyl sulfate, an alkyl aryl sulfonate, or a mixture thereof.

38. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said at least one thickening agent comprises one or more expandable clays.

39. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said composition contains from about 3.0 wt-% to about 13.0 wt-% of at least one detergent builder selected from sodium tripolyphosphate, potassium tripolyphosphate, or mixtures thereof; and from about 0.2 wt-% to about 5.0 wt-% of at least one thickening agent comprising (i) one or more polycarboxylate polymers, (ii) one or more expandable clays, (iii) or a mixture thereof.

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-10, and 12-39 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 5 and 11 are cancelled; claims 1-2, 6, 8-10, 15, 17-20, and 22-23 are amended; and new claims 24-39 are added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present claims in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

I. Formal Matters:

Specification Objections

The specification has been objected to for allegedly not providing a descriptive title of the invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the current title "HARD SURFACE CLEANER AND METHOD OF USE" is a clear, descriptive title for the present invention. Applicants further submit that the current title is clearly indicative of the claimed subject matter.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the specification title. Applicants are willing to consider other titles for the present invention as suggested by Examiner Ogden.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 8 are objected to due to misspelled words in claim 1 and the term "composition ion" in claim 8. Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendments shown above address these objections.

For at least the reasons given above, withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

II. Prior Art Rejections:

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)/§103(a)

Claim 1-7, 9-16 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,047,167 to Steyn et al. (hereinafter, "Steyn"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' claimed invention, embodied in independent claim 1, is drawn to a method of cleaning a hard surface, wherein the method comprises, *inter alia*, applying a non-corrosive, low-fuming composition to the surface wherein the composition comprises (a) from about 3.0 wt-% to about 20.0 wt-% of at least one detergent builder selected from tripolyphosphates; (b) from about 0.1 wt-% to about 20 wt-% of an alkalinity source effective to provide a pH of from about 10 to about 14 to said composition; (c) from about 0.0 wt-% to about 5.0 wt-% of at least one thickening agent to promote adhesion of said thickened, non-corrosive composition to the surface upon application; (d) from about 0.0 wt-% to about 5 wt-% of fatty acid stabilizer to maintain a homogenous mixture of said at least one detergent builder, at least one thickening agent, and alkalinity source; (e) from about 0.0 wt-% to about 5.0 wt-% of an anionic surfactant effective to provide detergency to the thickened, non-corrosive low-fuming composition said anionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of an alkyl sulfate, an alkyl sulfonate, a disulphonate compound, an alkyl ether sulfate, an alkyl ether sulfonate, and mixtures thereof; (f) from about 0.0 wt-% to about 2.0 wt-% of a metal ion chelator; and (g) a balance of water; wherein the composition is substantially free of chlorine.

Applicants' claimed invention, embodied in independent claim 10, is drawn to a thickened, hard surface cleaning composition comprising, *inter alia*, (a) from about 0.1 wt-% to about 20.0 wt-% of at least one detergent builder selected from tripolyphosphates; salts of alkali metal borates, phosphates, carbonates and bicarbonates; and mixtures thereof; (b) from about 0.1 wt-% to about 5 wt-% of at least one thickening agent effective to provide increased viscosity; (c) from about 0.1 wt-% to about 3.0 wt-% of an alkali metal hydroxide to provide a pH of about 10 to about 14; (d) from about 0.5 wt-% to about 5.0 wt-% of an anionic surfactant to provide detergency to the composition; (e) from about 0.0 wt-% to about 5 wt-% of a fatty acid stabilizer effective to maintain a homogenous mixture of said at least one detergent builder, at least one thickening agent, and alkali metal hydroxide; (f) from about 0.0 wt-% to about 2.0 wt-% of a metal ion chelator; and (g) a balance of water; wherein said composition is substantially free of chlorine.

Applicants' claimed invention, embodied in independent claim 23, is drawn to a method of cleaning a hard surface, wherein the method comprises, *inter alia*, applying a non-corrosive, low-fuming composition to the surface, wherein the composition **consists essentially of** (a) from about 0.1 wt-% to about 20.0 wt-% of at least one detergent builder selected from tripolyphosphates; salts of alkali metal borates, phosphates, carbonates and bicarbonates; and mixtures thereof; (b) from about 0.1 wt-% to about 20 wt-% of an alkalinity source effective to provide a pH of from about 10 to about 14 to said composition; (c) from about 0.0 wt-% to about 5.0 wt-% of at least one thickening agent to promote adhesion of said thickened, non-corrosive composition to the surface upon application; (d) from about 0.0 wt-% to about 5 wt-% of fatty acid stabilizer to maintain a homogenous mixture of said at least one detergent builder, at least one thickening agent, and alkalinity source; (e) from about 0.5 wt-% to about 5.0 wt-% of an anionic surfactant effective to provide detergency to the thickened, non-corrosive low-fuming composition said anionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of an alkylsulfate, an alkyl sulfonate, a disulphonate compound, an alkyl ether sulfate, an alkyl ether sulfonate, and mixtures thereof; (f) from about 0.0 wt-% to about 2.0 wt-% of a metal ion chelator; and (g) a balance of water.

Steyn discloses a detergent gel composition primarily for use in automatic dishwashing machines. Steyn specifically teaches aqueous cleaning compositions comprising one or more surfactants in the form of alkyl polyglycocides such as those disclosed from column 5, line 15, to column 6, line 30. The aqueous cleaning compositions of Steyn further comprise a thickening agent such as those disclosed beginning in column 6, line 31. Of particular interest to the present application is the disclosure of Steyn in column 7, lines 55-58, wherein Steyn specifically discloses that "aluminosilicates were found not to be effective co-structurants and, for purposes of this invention, are excluded as the trivalent metal ion source." Additionally, Steyn teaches preferred gel compositions in column 8, lines 18-35, wherein the preferred gel compositions comprise "about 0.2 to about 1.5 weight % available chlorine."

Steyn fails to teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention. In particular, with regard to claim 1, Steyn fails to teach or suggest (1) a method of cleaning a hard surface using a composition comprising from about 3.0 wt-% to about 20.0 wt-% of at least one detergent builder selected from tripolyphosphates. It should be noted that Steyn discloses the use of sodium tripolyphosphate in Examples 1-9, but only discloses the use of sodium tripolyphosphate up to about 1 wt-% of the cleaning composition. With regard to claim 10, Steyn fails to teach or suggest a cleaning composition comprising from about 0.5 wt-% to about 5.0 wt-% of an anionic surfactant. With regard to claim 23, Steyn fails to teach or

suggest a method of cleaning a hard surface comprising applying a composition which consists essentially of components (a) through (g) as recited in Applicants' claim 23.

Since Steyn fails to teach each and every claim element of Applicants' claims 1, 10 and 23, Steyn cannot anticipate claims 1, 10 or 23. Since claims 2-4, 6-7, 9, and 12-16 depend from independent claims 1 and 10, and recite additional claim features, Steyn cannot anticipate claims 2-4, 6-7, 9, and 12-16 (note: claims 5 and 11 were canceled). Further, Steyn fails to make obvious Applicants' claimed invention.

There is no suggestion in Steyn to prepare and use a cleaning composition comprising more than about 3.0 wt-% of at least one detergent builder selected from tripolyphosphates. As discussed above, Steyn discloses the use of sodium tripolyphosphate in an amount of up to about 1.0 wt-% of the cleaning composition; however, Steyn does not suggest the use of sodium tripolyphosphate or any other tripolyphosphate in an amount of greater than about 3.0 wt-% especially since the primary detergent builder in the cleaning composition of Steyn is an alkyl polyglycocide as disclosed from column 5, line 15, to column 6, line 30. In fact, the cleaning composition of Steyn requires at least one alkyl polyglycocide (see Steyn, column 5, lines 15-44 and column 6, lines 18-22).

In addition, the teaching of Steyn fails to suggest a cleaning composition containing an anionic surfactant as recited in Applicants' independent claims 10 and 23. On page 4, lines 13-14 of the June 6, 2002 Office Action, the Office Action acknowledges that the teaching of Steyn fails to teach or suggest an anionic surfactant component as recited in Applicants' independent claims 10 and 23. Not only does the teaching of Steyn fail to teach or suggest the use of an anionic surfactant, the teaching of Steyn specifically teaches away from the use of an anionic surfactant in column 3, lines 45-50. Steyn specifically discloses that "such anionic materials tend to produce levels of foam which are in excess of what may be controllable through the use of defoamers." Unlike the teaching of Steyn, foam is highly desirable in the present invention.

Given that the teaching of Steyn fails to teach or suggest the use of an anionic surfactant, and in fact teaches away from such use, as featured in Applicants' independent claims 10 and 23, the teaching of Steyn cannot make obvious Applicants' claimed invention embodied in independent claims 10 and 23. Further, given that the teaching of Steyn fails to teach or suggest the use of at least 3.0 wt-% of a tripolyphosphate in a cleaning solution, the teaching of Steyn cannot make obvious Applicants' claimed invention embodied in independent claim 1. Since claims 2-4, 6-7, 9, and 12-16 depend from independent claims 1 and 10 and recite additional claim features, the teaching of Steyn cannot make obvious claims

2-4, 6-7, 9, and 12-16. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 8 and 15-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steyn in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,972,866 to Ahmed (hereinafter, "Ahmed"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' claimed invention, embodied in independent claim 1, may be relied upon above. A description of the disclosure of Steyn may also be relied upon above.

Applicants' claimed invention, embodied in independent claim 17, is drawn to a method of cleaning a hard surface with an adherent, thickened, non-corrosive, low-fuming composition, wherein the method comprises, *inter alia*, applying the composition to the hard surface, wherein the composition comprises (a) from about 0.1 to about 20.0 wt-% of at least one detergent builder selected from tripolyphosphates; salts of alkali metal borates, phosphates, carbonates and bicarbonates; and mixtures thereof; (b) from about 0.1 to about 1.0 wt-% of at least one thickener; (c) from about 0.1 to about 3.0 wt-% of an alkali metal hydroxide alkalinity source providing a composition pH of greater than about 11; (d) from about 0.05 to about 5 wt-% of an anionic surfactant said anionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of a sulphate compound, a sulphonate compound, a disulphonate compound and mixtures thereof; and (e) from about 0.0 to about 5 wt-% of a fatty acid stabilizer effective to maintain a homogenous mixture of said at least one detergent builder, at least one thickening agent, and alkali source; wherein the composition has a viscosity ranging from about 30 to 10000 Cps at 25°C and, upon application, at least about 75 wt-% of the non-corrosive, low fuming composition adheres to the surface of application for at least about 30 minutes; and wherein the composition is substantially free of chlorine.

Like Applicants' independent claims 10 and 23 discussed above, Applicants' independent claim 17 recites a method of using a cleaning composition comprising an anionic surfactant. Specifically, in Applicants' independent claim 17, a method of cleaning a vertical surface is disclosed, wherein the cleaning composition comprises from about 0.05 wt-% to about 5.0 wt-% of an anionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of a sulfate compound, a sulfonate compound, a disulfonate compound, and mixtures thereof.

As discussed above, the June 6, 2002 Office Action acknowledges that the teaching of Steyn fails to teach or disclose a cleaning composition containing an anionic surfactant. The Office Action relies on the teaching of Ahmed to allegedly cure the above-noted deficiencies in the teaching of Steyn.

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Ahmed discloses a thickened, non-corrosive cleaner, which specifically contains a hypochlorite bleach therein. The cleaning composition of Ahmed may contain additional components such as thickening agents, detergent builders, and an alkali metal hydroxide to adjust pH, but must contain an amount of available chlorine (see Ahmed, Summary of the Invention; column 3, lines 18-26; column 4, lines 3-8; and throughout the disclosure).

The Office Action suggests that (1) one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize a deficiency in the cleaning compositions disclosed in Steyn; (2) seek out the teaching of Ahmed directed to a chlorine-containing cleaning composition; (3) pick one or more anionic surfactants from the cleaning compositions of Ahmed to incorporate into the cleaning compositions of Steyn even though (a) Steyn specifically teaches away from such a cleaning composition, especially a cleaning composition containing alkyl ether sulfonates, and (b) Ahmed discloses alkyl ether sulfonates as desired anionic surfactants; and (4) choose not to incorporate at least one chlorine-containing component from the cleaning compositions of Ahmed into the cleaning compositions of Steyn even though the cleaning compositions of Steyn require at least one chlorine-containing component. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify the cleaning compositions of Steyn as suggested by the Office Action. The teaching of Steyn specifically teaches away from cleaning compositions containing anionic surfactants due the generation of undesirable levels of foam. Further, the teaching of Steyn specifically teaches away from the use of anionic surfactants such as alkyl ether sulfonates (see column 3, lines 45-50). However, the teaching of Ahmed discloses alkyl ether sulfonates as desired examples of anionic surfactants to be used in the chlorine-containing cleaning compositions of Ahmed.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that in order to reconstruct a cleaning composition from the teachings of Steyn and Ahmed as suggested by the Office Action, one of ordinary skill in the art would have to ignore critical aspects of the teachings of Steyn and Ahmed. If one of ordinary skill in the art were to incorporate an anionic surfactant from the cleaning compositions of Ahmed into the cleaning composition of Steyn, surely one of ordinary skill in the art would also incorporate at least one chlorine-containing component into the cleaning composition of Steyn. To ignore the overall teaching of Ahmed, which is specifically directed to chlorine-containing cleaning compositions, would only be possible using a "pick and choose" approach of combining the teaching of Steyn with the teaching of Ahmed. Such an approach is improper. Further, such a proposed combination of cleaning

composition components would ignore the teaching of Steyn, which specifically teaches away from the inclusion of anionic surfactants into the cleaning composition due to foam.

Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have combined the teaching of Steyn with the teaching of Ahmed absent the impermissible use of hindsight. In other words, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to incorporate an anionic surfactant as taught by Ahmed into the cleaning composition of Steyn absent the impermissible use of hindsight. The only motivation for such a modification of the cleaning composition of Steyn has been deemed from a review of Applicants' invention, not from what is being taught or suggested in the cited art. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed combination of the teaching of Steyn with the teaching of Ahmed is improper.

For at least the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combined teaching of Steyn and Ahmed does not make obvious Applicants' claimed invention as embodied in independent claims 1 and 17. Since dependent claims 8, 15-16 and 18-21 depend from independent claims 1 and 17 and recite additional claim features, Applicants respectfully submit that the combined teaching of Steyn and Ahmed does not make obvious Applicants' claimed invention as embodied in claims 8, 15-16 and 18-21. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. New Claims 24-39:

New claims 24-39 are directed to further embodiments of Applicants' claimed invention. New dependent claims 24-27 depend from independent claim 1 and are allowable over the art of record for at least the reasons given above with regard to independent claim 1. New claims 28-34 depend from Applicants' independent claim 10 and are allowable over the art of record for at least the reasons given above with regard to independent claim 10. New claims 35-38 depend from Applicants' independent claim 17 and are allowable over the art of record for at least the reasons given above with regard to independent claim 17. New claim 39 depends from independent claim 23 and is allowable over the art of record for at least the reasons given above with regard to independent claim 23.

Support for new claims 24-39 may be found in at least the following locations: page 6, lines 7-13 (new claims 24, 28, 35, and 39); page 11, lines 15-20 (new claims 25, 29, and 36); from page 10, line 18 to page 11, line 20 (new claims 26, 30, and 37); from page 8, line 4 to page 9, line 10 (new claims 27, 31, and 38-39); Example 2 (new claims 32); and from page 6, line 2 to page 15, line 2 (new claims 33-34).

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Regarding new claim 32, KELZAN® AR is used as a thickener in Example 32. KELZAN® AR is a xantham gum as shown by the attached product information sheets available at www.cpkelco.com, the official website of CP Kelco US, Inc. (Wilmington, DE).

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 24-39 are patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons given above with regard to claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12-23.

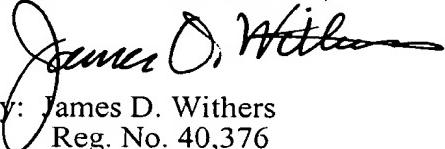
IV. Conclusion:

For at least the reasons given above, Applicants submit that claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12-39 define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of these claims.

No additional fees are believed due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

TADROWSKI ET AL.Serial No.: **09/837,398**Filed: **April 18, 2001**For: **HARD SURFACE CLEANER AND
METHOD OF USE**Group Art Unit: **1751**Examiner: **Ogden Jr., N.**Kay Matter No.: **QO 1465US01-Kay**

**MARKED UP VERSIONS OF SPECIFICATION PARAGRAPHS AND CLAIMS
ACCOMPANYING APPLICANTS' SEPTEMBER 6, 2002 AMENDMENT AND
RESPONSE**

Applicants provide the following marked up versions of the specification paragraphs and claims, which were amended in Applicants' September 6, 2002 Amendment and Response filed in response to the June 6, 2002 Office Action. In the amendments below, brackets are used to show where terms were removed from the specification paragraphs and claims, while underlines are used to show where terms were added to the specification paragraphs and claims.

In The Specification:

The following amendments were made to the specification:

In the paragraph on page 5, lines 13-16:

According to one embodiment of the present invention, the compositions are substantially free of chlorine. [By] As used herein, the term "substantially free of chlorine" [we mean] refers to a composition that has insufficient chlorine to have any irritating effects. More particularly, [we mean] "substantially free of chlorine" refers to a composition containing less than 0.1% chlorine.

On page 5, after line 16, the following was inserted:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on September 6, 2002.

James D. Withers - Reg. No. 40,376

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In the paragraph on page 6, lines 7-13:

Preferred detergent builders are selected from tripolyphosphates. One preferred tripolyphosphate which may be used with the invention is an alkali metal polyphosphate such as sodium tripolyphosphate ("STPP") or potassium tripolyphosphate ("KTPP") or a mixture thereof. The tripolyphosphate, e.g. [NaTPP] STPP or KTPP or mixtures thereof, may be used in the composition of the invention in an amount of up to about 20 wt-%, preferably about 1 wt-% to about 15 wt-% and more preferably about 3 wt-% to about 13 wt-%.

In the paragraph on page 11, lines 5-10:

Sulphonated surfactants are also useful in the invention including alkyl, aryl, and alkyl/aryl sulphonates such as [alkai] alkali metal C₁₀-C₁₈ alkyl/aryl sulphonates such as sodium alkyl benzene sulphonates and sodium dodecyl benzene sulphonate. Also useful are alpha-olefin sulphonates, alkyl naphthalene sodium sulphonates and the like. A useful sulfonated anionic surfactant is the alkali metal salt of secondary alkane sulfonates, an example of which is the Hostapur SAS from Hoechst Celanese.

In The Claims:

The following amendments were made to the claims:

Claims 5 and 11 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-2, 6, 8-10, 15, 17-20 and 22-23 were amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of cleaning a hard surface, said method comprising:
applying a non-corrosive, low-fuming composition to the surface, said composition comprising:
 - (a) from about [0.1] 3.0 wt-% to about 20.0 wt-% of [a] at least one detergent builder selected from tripolyphosphates;
 - (b) from about 0.1 wt-% to about 20 wt-% of an alkalinity source effective to provide a pH of from about 10 to about 14 to said composition;
 - (c) from about 0.0 wt-% to about 5.0 wt-% of [a] at least one thickening agent to promote adhesion of said thickened, non-corrosive composition to the surface upon application;

(d) from about 0.0 wt-% to about 5 wt-% of fatty acid stabilizer to maintain a homogenous mixture of said at least one detergent builder, at least one thickening agent, and alkalinity source;

(e) from about 0.0 wt-% to about 5.0 wt-% of an anionic surfactant effective to provide detergency to the thickened, non-corrosive low-fuming composition said anionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of an [alkylsulfate] alkyl sulfate, an alkyl sulfonate, a disulphonate compound, an alkyl ether sulfate, an [alkyd] alkyl ether sulfonate, an alkyl aryl sulfonate, and mixtures thereof;

(f) from about 0.0 wt-% to about 2.0 wt-% of a metal ion chelator; and

(g) a balance of water[.];

wherein the [cleaner] composition is substantially free of chlorine.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said surface is substantially vertical, and wherein said composition contains at least 0.1 [%] wt-% of [a] at least one thickening agent.

6. (Amended) The method of claim [5] 1, wherein the [alkali metal tripolyphosphate] at least one detergent builder is sodium tripolyphosphate.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said composition [ion] comprises at least 0.1[%] wt-% of a fatty acid stabilizer selected from stearic acid, palmitic acid, tallow fatty acid, coco fatty acid, oleic acid, myristic acid, or mixtures thereof.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said composition includes at least 0.1[%] wt-% of a metal ion chelator.

10. (Amended) A thickened hard surface cleaning composition comprising:

(a) from about 0.1 wt-% to about 20.0 wt-% of [a] at least one detergent builder selected from tripolyphosphates; salts of alkali metal borates, phosphates, carbonates and bicarbonates; and mixtures thereof;

(b) from about 0.1 wt-% to about 5 wt-% of [a] at least one thickening agent effective to provide increased viscosity;

(c) from about 0.1 wt-% to about 3.0 wt-% of an alkali metal hydroxide to provide a pH of about 10 to about 14;

(d) from about [0.0] 0.5 wt-% to about 5.0 wt-% of an anionic surfactant to provide detergency to the composition;

(e) from about 0.0 wt-% to about 5 wt-% of a fatty acid stabilizer effective to maintain a homogenous mixture of said at least one detergent builder, at least one thickening agent, and alkali metal hydroxide;

(f) from about 0.0 wt-% to about 2.0 wt-% of a metal ion chelator; and

(g) a balance of water[.];

wherein said composition is substantially free of chlorine.

15. (Amended) The composition of claim 10, wherein said composition comprises:

(a) from about 1.0 wt-% to about 20.0 wt-% of an alkali metal tripolyphosphate;

(b) from about 0.1 wt-% to about 3.0 wt-% of sodium hydroxide[.].

17. (Amended) A method of cleaning a [substantially vertical] hard surface with an adherent, thickened, non-corrosive low-fuming composition, said method comprising applying said composition to the [substantially vertical] hard surface, said composition comprising:

(a) from about 0.1 to about 20.0 wt-% of [a] at least one detergent builder selected from tripolyphosphates; salts of alkali metal borates, phosphates, carbonates and bicarbonates; and mixtures thereof;

(b) from about 0.1 to about 1.0 wt-% of [a] at least one thickener; [and]

(c) from about 0.1 to about 3.0 wt-% of an alkali metal hydroxide alkalinity source providing a composition pH of greater than about 11;

(d) from about 0.05 to about 5 wt-% of an anionic surfactant said anionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of a sulphate compound, a sulphonate compound, a disulphonate compound and mixtures thereof; and

(e) from about 0.0 to about 5 wt-% of a fatty acid stabilizer effective to maintain a homogenous mixture of said at least one detergent builder, at least one thickening agent, and alkali source wherein said composition has a viscosity ranging from about 30 to 10000 Cps at 25°C and, upon application, at least about 75 wt-% of the non-corrosive, low fuming composition adheres to the surface of application for at least about 30 minutes; and

wherein the composition is substantially free of chlorine.

18. (Amended) The method of claim [15] 17, wherein upon application to [the] a substantially vertical surface, at least about 85 wt-% of the applied cleaner adheres to the surface for a time period up to about 30 minutes.

19. (Amended) The method of claim [15] 17, wherein upon application to [the] a substantially vertical surface, at least about 95 wt-% of the applied cleaner adheres to the surface for a time period up to about 30 minutes.

20. (Amended) The method of claim [15] 17, wherein said detergent builder comprises an alkali metal tripolyphosphate.

22. (Amended) The method of claim [15] 17, wherein the surface comprises a material, said material selected from the group consisting of metal alloys, and enameled surfaces.

23. (Amended) A method of cleaning a hard surface, said method comprising:
applying a non-corrosive, low-fuming composition to the surface, said composition consisting essentially of:

[(h)] (a) from about 0.1 wt-% to about 20.0 wt-% of [a] at least one detergent builder selected from tripolyphosphates; salts of alkali metal borates, phosphates, carbonates and bicarbonates; and mixtures thereof;

[(i)] (b) from about 0.1 wt-% to about 20 wt-% of an alkalinity source effective to provide a pH of from about 10 to about 14 to said composition;

[(j)] (c) from about 0.0 wt-% to about 5.0 wt-% of [a] at least one thickening agent to promote adhesion of said thickened, non-corrosive composition to the surface upon application;

[(k)] (d) from about 0.0 wt-% to about 5 wt-% of fatty acid stabilizer to maintain a homogenous mixture of said at least one detergent builder, at least one thickening agent, and alkalinity source;

[(l)] (e) from about [0.0] 0.5 wt-% to about 5.0 wt-% of an anionic surfactant effective to provide detergency to the thickened, non-corrosive low-fuming composition said anionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of an [alkylsulfate] alkyl sulfate, an alkyl sulfonate, a disulphonate compound, an alkyl ether sulfate, an [alkyd] alkyl ether sulfonate, an alkyl aryl sulfonate, and mixtures thereof;

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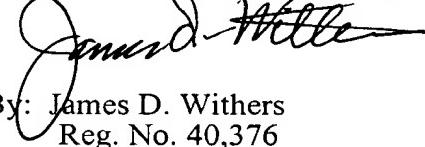
[(m)] (f) from about 0.0 wt-% to about 2.0 wt-% of a metal ion chelator; and

[(n)] (g) a balance of water.

New claims 24-39 were added as shown in the Amendment and Response.

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